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use and application of the word are useful, justifiable and commendable. Upon this point of the finality of the decisions of the nine Circuit Courts of Appeal the author has drawn a vivid picture of the absurdity of having nine equal independent courts of last resort, the jurisdiction of each covering only its prescribed part of the country. He cites an actual case where, owing to conflicting decisions by different courts in reference to the same patent, the same article identically would be an infringement or would not be an infringement of a certain patent, dependent upon the name of the manufacturer or the part of the country where the article was used, certainly a ridiculous and most unjust state of affairs. The author makes the interesting assertion that, in his opinion, the law is unconstitutional which prevents appeals from being taken to the United States Circuit Court as a matter of right.

The author concludes his work with the Patent Statutes, to which he has added a few annotations taken from the pamphlet of the Patent Statutes issued by the Patent Office.

Both in the main part of the work and in the survey, the treatment of the different subjects is in most instances concise, accurate and clear, and the work will undoubtedly prove of great value to the profession.

A. D. K.

WHITE ON CORPORATIONS. By FRANK WHITE. 7th ed. New York: BAKER, VOORHIS & Co. 1909. pp. ix, 1505.

The profession will welcome the 7th edition of this work devoted to the Corporation Laws of the State of New York. Each new edition, keeping pace with the times, has been regarded as a standard by the active practitioner, and the present edition, if anything, surpasses its predecessors. While it follows the 6th edition after the lapse of but two years, the consolidation of the general laws of the State in 1909 as the Consolidated Laws, the transfer of some 600 sections from the Code of Civil Procedure to the Consolidated Laws, and the enactment of important statutes, such as the Public Service Commissions Law, with the many important decisions of the courts in that time, have made this last edition a necessity. The general plan of the work has not been changed; the book is not a theoretical treatise upon the law of corporations, and does not purport to be. The arrangement and method of treatment are eminently practical. The text of the following statutes are printed in full: The General Corporations Law; The Stock Corporations Law; The Business Corporations Law; The Transportation Corporations Law; Public Service Commissions Law; The Railroad Law; Miscellaneous Railroad Laws not found in the Consolidated Laws; The Rapid Transit Act; The Joint Stock Association Law; The General Construction Law; Condemnation Law; and the United States Corporation Tax Law.

In addition, all provisions of other statutes which are applicable to corporations are printed under the particular section of the corporation statute to which they relate, as for instance, the Tax Law, the Labor Law, the Code of Civil Procedure, the Domestic Relations Law, the Penal and Criminal Code, the Sherman Anti-Trust Act and the Lien Law.

Following each section of the statutes in smaller type are the author's annotations, which are complete and exhaustive, and include

the statutory sources of the section, carefully digested decisions of the New York Courts, and where the statutes of other states are similar or identical, the decisions of the courts of those states, decisions which have been superceded by amendments to the law, and a reference to the page at which the appropriate forms will be found, and lastly the author's criticism and suggestions. In support of this arrangement, the author says in the preface:

"A large measure of attention has been paid to the case law and decisions of the courts have been grouped, analyzed and explained under topical headings in a manner that includes all the advantages of a treatise, with the additional convenience of having the text of the statutes printed in connection therewith for immediate reference. Every case decided by the courts has a direct bearing upon the construction of some particular provision of the Statute Law. The doctrine enunciated in the case and the discussion thereof pertain to certain sections of the law. It therefore seems awkward and undesirable to separate the cases and the statutory provisions so widely as to make an examination of either a matter of independent investigation."

It is to be regretted that the author has not devoted more space to his own comment upon the decisions, a work for which his long experience at the Bar and in the Office of the Secretary of State and as Deputy Attorney General peculiarly qualify him, but perhaps in a work of this character more extended discussion was not deemed advisable. The digest of the decisions, however, has been done with care, and more than 2,000 new cases are cited in this edition which may fairly be said to have brought the case law up to date. The book ends with 390 forms which will prove serviceable if used intelligently and with discrimination. Many of them were originally drafted by the author in his earlier editions and are now in common use. No form, however good, can keep the careless and the lazy out of trouble.

Particular mention should be made of the treatment of the laws relating to the dissolution of corporations, to receivers and to actions for sequestration, and to the Public Service Commissions Law. The growing tendency of the law to fix upon directors more rigid obligations—to make them in fact as well as in name "direct"—renders the exhaustive citation of authorities and the discussion under the headings of Directors Powers, Duties and Liabilities, especially timely and pertinent. The annotations have been compiled with painstaking care. Doubtless the decision of the Court of Appeals reversing the Appellate Division in *City v. Bryan*,¹ under section 35 of the General Corporations Law, as to the property of a dissolved corporation was handed down too late for insertion.

The work is well indexed, the type legible and the paper and binding substantial. It gives every evidence of most conscientious investigation on the part of the author and the result is all that could be desired in a book of this character designed to meet the daily needs of the Bench, the Bar and of Public Officials charged with the duty of executing the law.

A. B. A. B.

¹(1909) 196 N. Y. 153.